GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:792
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
POST OFFICE IN VILLAGES
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 4 lakh villages are still deprived of post office facilities in the country at present and particularly in the district of Krishna in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the criterion to open a post office in a village;

(d) whether new post offices are not being set up even in many such villages which fulfil the required parameters;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for opening up of post offices in each of the villages in the country;

(g) whether any value-added services are proposed in the post offices of the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir. All the villages where opening of separate Post Office is not justified are provided basic postal facilities through the nearest existing Post Office/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendra.The Department of Posts provides facilities of regular delivery of mail to customers, collects letters from letter boxes and sells stamps and stationery at the doorstep of customers in villages. Such facilities are provided in all the villages of the country including those in District Krishna of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Copy of norms/criteria for opening of post offices in villages is given in the Annexure.

(d) The Post Offices are set up in such villages which fulfil the required norms subject to availability of requisite resources and manpower.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) The Government does not have any policy of opening Post Offices in every village of the country. In view of this, the question of steps taken/being taken in this connection does not arise.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.